whether any campaign is bring run to get control over T.B. by setting any target; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) India alone accounts for 25% of global TB burden and half million people are estimated to be dying every year.

The National TB Control Programme, which is in operation since 1962, was reviewed in 1992 and the findings of the Review Committee interalia were that the treatment completion rate if less than 40%, there were drug shortage, emphasis on X-ray for diagnosis, poor quality sputum microscopy, multiplicity of treatment regimens, inadequate budget and managerial capacity etc.

Based on these findings, Government of India evolved a Revised National TB Control Programme with the objective of curing at least 85% of sputum positive cases and detecting at least 70% of these cases. This World Bank assisted programme, which is in operation since 1993-94, is expected to cover 270 million population by 2000 following the Direct Observation Treatment Strategy (DOTS).

Under RNTCP, quality of diagnosis has been good and sputum conversion rate remains high at 87%. The programme is being expanded in a phased manner. It is expected that RNTCP will cover 400 million population by 2002.

Suggestion of DG, who on Tobacco Related Ailments

953. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director-General, World Health Organisation (WHO) had, during her meeting with Prime Minister on January 8, 2000, indicated that every day 11,000 people die of tobacco-related ailments, and had suggested measures to being it down, without adversely affecting the interests of tobacco growers;

(b) if so, what measures were suggested; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Government of India and the World Organisation jointly hosted an International Conference on "Global Tobacco Control Law: Towards a WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control" at New Delhi from 7th to 9th January, 2000. Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General, World Health Organisation attended the Conference. During the course of her visit to India she called upon various dignitaries including the Prime Minister. She stated at the Conference that tobacco kills one person in the world every eight seconds. She expressed the opinion that if tobacco consumption remained unchecked and unregulated, tobacco would kill ten million people each year, by 2030.

The Conference considered various issues relating to tobacco control, especially from the point of view of developing countries and interalia suggested implementation of multi sectoral National Tobacco control activities and support of the Governments for implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

(c) The Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Tenth Lok Sabha) in its 22nd Report had made several recommendations primarily intended to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products. Government is examining these recommendations and the draft legislation is under consideration of the Government.

Legislation to Control Tobacco Consumption

954. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has now been established beyond doubt that smoking is extremely injurious to health, particularly among young people; and

(b) if so, what steps Government intend to take to tighten the legislation and see that it is followed in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH